

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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TAGS: ELAB, PINS, PINT, NI, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET FUNDING OF NTUC MAKES FRONT PAGE

SUMMARY: IN WELCOME BREAK FROM ACCUSATIONS OF U.S., BRITISH
MEDDLING IN NIGERIAN AFFAIRS, PRESS GIVING FRONT PAGE TREATMENT
TO SOVIET FUNDING OF NIGERIAN TRADE UNION CONGRESS (NTUC)
AND BANNED SOCIALIST WORKERS AND FARMERS PARTY (SWAFP),
SOVIET SUBVENTION OF NAIRA ONE MILLION FOR SWAFP TO CONTEST
1964 FEDERAL ELECTION, AND TANGLED WEB OF NTUC FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
INCLUDING LEADERS SIPHONING OFF FUNDS FOR PERSONAL USE.
END SUMMARY.

1. PRESS GIVING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO TESTIMONY OF
FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF NTUC, EDET BASSEY ETIENAM, BEFORE
FMG PANEL PROBING TRADE UNIONS, TO EFFECT THAT NTUC, THROUGH
ITS /ALTER EGO/ SWAFP, HEAVILY ENGAGED IN CIVILIAN-ERA POLITICS,
THAT NTUC, NIGERIAN YOUTH CONGRESS (NYC) AND SWAFP RECEIVED
NAIRA ONE MILLION FROM CPSU TO CONTEST 1964 FEDERAL ELECTION.
HEADLINE ON FRONT PAGE OF APRIL 6 /NEW NIGERIAN/ READS
"USSR IN NLM. ELECTION DEAL."

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2. ETIENAM'S TESTIMONY, IN ADDITION TO SPOTLIGHTING SOVIET

INVOLVEMENT, STRESSES CORRUPTION OF NTUC LEADERSHIP. FOR
EXAMPLE, OF NAIRA 150,000 SET ASIDE FOR FINANCING CANDIDATES TO
25 PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES, LESS THAN 20,000 WAS SPENT FOR
THAT PURPOSE. ONLY TEN OF CONSTITUENCIES WERE CONTESTED AND
NO CANDIDATE GOT MORE THAN NAIRA 2000. IN TESTIMONY APRIL 5,
ETIENAM DESCRIBED HOW NTUC LEADERSHIP CONVERTED PARTY AND UNION
ENTERPRISES SUCH AS DR. TUNJI OTEGBEYE'S
WORKERS' HOSPITAL AND STILL UNFINISHED SECRETARIAT BUILDING IN
SURULERE, LAGOS, TO PERSONAL USE. FOLLOWING DAY ETIENAM
TESTIFIED TO SECRET AFFILIATION BETWEEN NTUC AND WORLD FEDERATION
OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU) AND NTUC REQUEST FOR NAIRA 180,000
FROM WFTU, WENT ON TO DETAIL FALLING OUT BETWEEN OTEGBEYE AND
NTUC BOSS WAHAB GOODLUCK, THEIR STRUGGLE FOR POSSESSION OF
VARIOUS PROPERTIES KEPT IN THEIR CARE WHICH BELONGED TO THE
MOVEMENT.

COMMENT: SOVIET SUPPORT FOR NTUC, TANGLED WEB OF MOVEMENT'S
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS HAVE BEEN OPEN SECRET FOR MANY YEARS, BUT
HAVE NOT RECEIVED PRESS ATTENTION LATELY. THIS TIME AROUND,
HOWEVER, STORY COULD HOLD PAPERS' ATTENTION BECAUSE IT COMBINES
ELEMENTS OF FOREIGN DABBLING IN NIGERIAN AFFAIRS WITH REVELATIONS
OF CORRUPTION. WESTERN-ORIENTED UNITED LABOUR CONGRESS (ULC)
WILL GET ITS TURN BEFORE PANEL SOON, AND NTUC WITNESSES, IN
EFFORT TO CAST SMOKE SCREEN OVER THEIR OWN MISDEEDS, MAY ATTEMPT
TO IMPUGN ULC TIES WITH AFL-CIO AND ICFTU, AALC SUPPORT FOR
ULC'S TRADE UNION INSTITUTE, AND RAISE SPECTRE OF CIA
INVOLVEMENT.

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